

Fog Signal

Track sound, clues, and contrasting viewpoints in a suspenseful scene.

8.RL.2 "Craft and Style Interpret the meaning and analyze the impact of poetic elements in prose and poetry (e.g., rhyme, rhythm, repetition, alliteration, and onomatopoeia) on the reader. Analyze how the elements of an author's style (e.g...."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that make readers suspect danger. Circle repeated sound words. Mark L beside Lila's fear and A beside Arun's fear; notice how the ending changes their interpretations.

The Red Ribbon

- ① On the night before the harbor festival, Lila climbed the hill to deliver bread to her grandfather, the lighthouse keeper. The sea slapped the rocks below, slap, slap, slap, while fog folded around the tower. At the door, she found his brass key hanging from a red ribbon, though he never left it outside. "Grandfather?" she called. Only the lantern answered, clicking once, then twice. Lila pocketed the key. The bright ribbon looked cheerful, but it felt like a warning flag.
- ② Inside, Arun, her grandfather, had watched Lila approach from the window. His stiff knee locked as he hurried downstairs, so he could not reach the door. The missing key did not worry him; he had tied it outside so Lila could enter. But an unfamiliar visitor had asked about the festival boats that afternoon and left a silver whistle beside the lamp. Why had he asked so many questions? Tick. Tick. Arun gripped the rail as the clock marked the silence.
- ③ Lila entered. "I thought someone had taken you," she told Arun. "And I worried that visitor might return," he said. Then someone knocked. "Captain Reyes, from the festival boat! I left my whistle here while asking about the tide." Lila opened the door to a smiling visitor in a captain's coat. Arun handed back the whistle, and his shoulders relaxed. Lila untied the red ribbon from the key and laid it beside the lamp. In the beam, it looked like a warm signal rather than a warning flag.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How do the repeated sea sounds and "Tick. Tick." affect the mood before Lila enters?

2 How do Lila and Arun interpret the situation differently? Give a detail supporting each view.

3 How do the visitor's questions and abandoned whistle make readers suspect danger? Why are they misleading clues, rather than proof of a coming harmful act?

4 Compare the ribbon's meaning at the beginning and ending. How does the change affect tone?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a short suspense scene with a repeated sound, two characters interpreting the same event differently, and an early clue whose meaning becomes clear at the ending. Then explain how your choices affect the reader.

Plan the suspense

Note the event, each character's belief and the early clue that will connect to your ending.

Write the scene

Use dialogue or narration to show both views. Make the ending connect to the clue; include a repeated sound.

Explain the craft

Explain the sound's effect and how the clue connects to the ending. Does it point toward the truth or mislead the reader?

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that make readers suspect danger. Circle repeated sound words. Mark L beside Lila's fear and A beside Arun's fear; notice how the ending changes their interpretations. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the repeated sea sounds and "Tick. Tick." affect the mood before Lila enters?	They emphasize the quiet, isolated setting and the slow wait, creating an uneasy mood.
2	How do Lila and Arun interpret the situation differently? Give a detail supporting each view.	Lila fears someone has taken Arun; she calls without an answer and sees his unusually placed key. Arun knows why the key is outside but worries about the unfamiliar visitor's questions. Their different knowledge produces different fears.
3	How do the visitor's questions and abandoned whistle make readers suspect danger? Why are they misleading clues, rather than proof of a coming harmful act?	Arun's uneasiness makes an unfamiliar person's questions and left-behind whistle seem suspicious. Reyes later explains his harmless visit and retrieves his whistle. These clues misdirect suspicion; they do not predict harm that actually occurs.
4	Compare the ribbon's meaning at the beginning and ending. How does the change affect tone?	The ribbon first seems like a warning flag to Lila, then like a warm signal. Her changed interpretation helps move the tone from fear to relief.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Plan: A rattling box outside a locked theater; Nia fears an animal while Malik expects a delivery. A corner of gold ribbon hints at decorations.

Scene: Rattle, rattle. Nia stopped outside the locked theater door. A gold ribbon poked from the box beside it. "Something is moving in there," she whispered. Malik tapped the shipping label. "It says stage supplies. Maybe it is just a delivery." The box rattled again as wind rushed down the alley. Nia stepped back. The caretaker arrived, unlocked the door and lifted the lid: paper lanterns and loose metal hooks lay inside. He carried the box out of the wind, and the rattling stopped. Nia finally let go of Malik's sleeve.

Craft explanation: The repeated rattling delays the explanation and makes Nia's fear plausible. The gold ribbon and stage-supplies label point toward the decorations revealed at the end; they foreshadow that harmless explanation. The two interpretations let the reader weigh fear against evidence.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Accept supported readings of sound, contrasting knowledge, symbolism and suspense. Distinguish foreshadowing, which hints at a later event, from a misleading clue that redirects suspicion. The original scene uses a harmless reveal; students may choose another ending if their clue connects coherently. Assess craft and explanation rather than a word count.